

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 11 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 5, 6, and 8 have been editorially amended to address informalities. Claims 18-20 have been added and are fully supported by the application as filed. Claims 1-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 remain pending. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 9-12, and 15 are all directed to data signals for modifying a graphic scene. These claims are in the "propagated signal" format. The Patent Office has specifically recognized that claims in this format are directed to statutory subject matter. See Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions, Example: Automated Manufacturing Plant, <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/pdf/compenex.pdf> (see example claim 13).

Further, claims written in a format similar to claims 1, 9-12, and 15 have been allowed in other applications. See, for example, claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,206 and claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,207, both of which are directed at data signals.

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 9-12, and 15, as well as claims 2-6, 13, and 14 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

However, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, claims 11 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their future prosecution. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 were noted as being allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter. All claims are now in condition for allowance.

New Claims 18-20

New claims 18-20, based substantially on either of claims 1 or 8, further define over the cited art. Consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 612/332-5300.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 23, 2004

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